



## **SOUTHEAST REGION LICC REPORT – March 2004**



**Acting First Steps Facilitator: Rachel Terbrock, Representing 26 counties**

### **Regional LICC Status:**

Reporting Date: March 19, 2004

Active LICCs: 8 active LICCs, representing 26 counties

Inactive LICCs: None

LICCs in development: 3 LICCs (Dunklin/Stoddard, Pemiscot/New Madrid, and Howell/Oregon) are in the early stages of development and will hold initial meetings in the coming months).

### **Primary Outcomes of the Southeast LICCs:**

1. Public Awareness & Child Find
2. Provider Recruitment
3. LICC Member Recruitment
4. Knowledge of community resources

### **Summary of Activities and Accomplishments:**

The Southeast Region has 8 active LICCs that meet on a regular basis and have developed specific outcomes/goals that are specific to the needs of their communities. SPOEs are actively involved in the LICC activities, providing First Steps referral and program participation information at the meetings.

- *Butler/Carter/Ripley/Wayne LICC* – newly formed - held 2<sup>nd</sup> general membership meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Identified goals of public awareness and provider recruitment & beginning strategies to implement in the area.
- *Cape Girardeau/Bollinger LICC* – held 3<sup>rd</sup> general membership meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> and attendance to these meetings is steadily increasing. Members are working on public awareness activities (flyers, brochure distribution) and strategies in recruiting providers.
- *Dent Co LICC* – focus is on increasing public awareness, which is making an impact in the county as professionals and parents are more familiar with the First Steps program. Group is planning for Child Check event in April.
- *Franklin/Gasconade LICC* – continuing Child Find activities. Sponsoring/ planning for a Parent Workshop in late April w/ the University Outreach & Extension Center. Initiated process of securing governor's proclamation for First Steps of MO Day on April 24<sup>th</sup> & planning promotional activities to go along w/ that event.
- *Mineral Area LICC (Iron, Madison, & St Francois Cos)* – offering more parent trainings & working towards getting more parents involved in LICC activities. Place articles in local newspapers and working on a radio spot to promote the program. Recently combined monthly meeting with the Community Partnership group meetings in St. Francois Co, as the key players in the community already attend the Partnership meetings and it is a good way to stay informed. Hold LICC meeting prior to big meeting.
- *Phelps/Pulaski LICC* – continue to work on member recruitment and public awareness. Have not formally met for several months but plan on reconvening again soon and working towards common goals in helping area families.

- *SEMO LICC* – originally covered 7 counties – recently divided into smaller LICCs to maintain a better focus on local needs. Now covering 3 counties of Mississippi, Scott, & Stoddard. Group focus is on public awareness, provider recruitment, and increased LICC parent & community participation. Working towards new strategies to implement these goals with smaller coverage area.
- *Ste Genevieve/Perry LICC* – public awareness activities such as placing ads in area community newspapers and giving informational packets to area providers to educate them on the program and processes. Planning parent meetings with key presenters as part of community service and LICC awareness.

**Key Points the Southeast LICCs want to provide the SICC:**

- Lack of providers in the rural areas continues to be the main concern. There continues to be steady enrollment in the First Steps program, but without the needed providers, the children are still going unserved. These areas are especially lacking: Occupational therapists, Developmental therapists, Physical therapists, Speech therapists, Audiologists, Counselors, Dieticians, and Psychologists.
- Lack of incentive to keep current providers, let alone recruit new providers. No mileage reimbursement for providers is a major deterrent in this process. Many of the Southeast counties are VERY rural, which means the families served are generally 60-90+ miles (one way) from the nearest provider. Where is the incentive for providers to travel that distance, and often on unmaintained roads, with no mileage, when they could be providing their services in a hospital or other environments?
- The Southeast LICCs are asking for more direction in their efforts and in goal setting. They feel as though they are not truly being heard by the SICC and need more guidance as to what they should be doing. In regards to communication with DESE, members feel “in the dark” about what is going on (what changes are being made, who is making the changes, how to stay informed of these changes) and have difficulty keeping up with the ever-changing rules and expectations.
- Public awareness and education continues to be a big need in most areas. LICC members are out promoting First Steps and educating the general public & professionals, which is generating more referrals and overall awareness of First Steps.
- Continue to be concerned with the uncertainty of the First Steps budget and where things are heading in this program.
- LICC member recruitment is still an issue for all groups. It is difficult getting participation from parents and area agencies in general. When program processes and expectations keep changing, it is even hard to maintain current membership. It takes a fairly good sized group from all different perspectives to implement LICC goals and be an effective part of the system.
- The LICCs *ARE* appreciative of the work of the former regional facilitator and say she was an asset in keeping them informed and up-to-date. They also are pleased with the timely replacement of the Southeast Facilitator position in keeping some consistency within the system.